

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide Data Program  
Finished Drinking Water  
Proficiency Testing Program**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pesticide Data Program (PDP) is implementing a finished drinking water testing program in response to Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) requirements. The State Department of Agriculture laboratories in California, Colorado, and New York will be performing the analyses. Data will be used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess dietary risk contributions from water.

The drinking water project will employ a proficiency testing program for the PDP laboratories that analyze drinking water. The analytical profile tasked to the project is different from established regulatory drinking water programs and therefore custom solutions are necessary for proficiency testing. PDP has contracted Ultra Scientific, Inc., to provide pesticide analytical spiking solutions. Ultra is ISO 9001 registered and is accredited to ISO Guide 25. Ultra is also an accredited NIST/NVLAP proficiency test provider for environmental laboratories performing finished drinking water analyses. Additionally, Ultra has available a large number of the pesticides and metabolites included in the PDP water program.

Ultra will supply each laboratory quality assurance unit (QAU) concentrated custom mixes for targeted gas chromatography (GC) and liquid chromatography (LC) analyses. The laboratory QAU will make appropriate dilutions and spike one liter of unfiltered tap water for laboratory analyses. The laboratories will submit results to PDP headquarters in Manassas, VA, for data analysis and final report preparation. A minimum of two proficiency testing rounds is tentatively scheduled for FY 2002.